WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

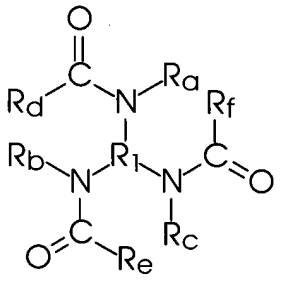
1. A phase change ink composition comprising (a) a colorant and (b) a carrier comprising a polyamide, wherein the polyamide component of the carrier contains at least about 10 percent by weight of a branched triamide.

2. A phase change ink composition according to claim 1 wherein the polyamide component of the carrier contains at least about 60 percent by weight of a branched triamide.

3. A phase change ink composition according to claim 1 wherein the polyamide component of the carrier contains at least about 90 percent by weight of a branched triamide.

4. A phase change ink composition according to claim 1 wherein the polyamide component of the carrier contains about 100 percent by weight of a branched triamide.

5. A phase change ink composition according to claim 1 wherein the triamide is of the formula



wherein R_1 is (i) an alkylene group, (ii) an arylene group, (iii) an arylalkylene group, or (iv) an alkylarylene group, R_a, R_b, and R_c each, independently of the others, is (i) a hydrogen atom, (ii) an alkyl group, (iii) an aryl group, (iv) an arylalkyl group, or (v) an alkylaryl group, and R_d, R_e, and R_f each, independently of the others, is (i) an alkyl group, (ii) an aryl group, (iii) an arylalkyl group, or (iv) an alkylaryl group.

6. A phase change ink composition according to claim 5 wherein each amide group of the triamide is bonded to a different atom in the R_1 group.

7. A phase change ink composition according to claim 5 wherein the total number of carbon atoms in $R_1 + R_a + R_b + R_c + R_d + R_e + R_f$ is at least about 7.

8. A phase change ink composition according to claim 5 wherein the total number of carbon atoms in $R_1 + R_a + R_b + R_c + R_d + R_e + R_f$ is at least about 10.

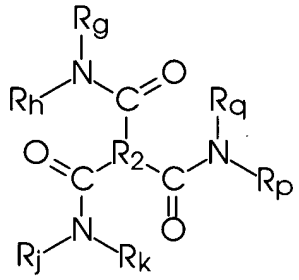
9. A phase change ink composition according to claim 5 wherein the total number of carbon atoms in $R_1 + R_a + R_b + R_c + R_d + R_e + R_f$ is at least about 12.

10. A phase change ink composition according to claim 5 wherein the total number of carbon atoms in $R_1 + R_a + R_b + R_c + R_d + R_e + R_f$ is no more than about 500.

11. A phase change ink composition according to claim 5 wherein the total number of carbon atoms in $R_1 + R_a + R_b + R_c + R_d + R_e + R_f$ is no more than about 350.

12. A phase change ink composition according to claim 5 wherein the total number of carbon atoms in $R_1 + R_a + R_b + R_c + R_d + R_e + R_f$ is no more than about 300.

13. A phase change ink composition according to claim 1 wherein the triamide is of the formula



wherein R_2 is (i) an alkylene group, (ii) an arylene group, (iii) an arylalkylene group, or (iv) an alkylarylene group, R_g, R_j, and R_p each, independently of the others, is (i) a hydrogen atom, (ii) an alkyl group, (iii) an aryl group, (iv) an arylalkyl group, or (v) an alkylaryl group, and R_h, R_k, and R_q each, independently of the others, is (i) a hydrogen atom, (ii) an alkyl group, (iii) an aryl group, (iv) an arylalkyl group, or (v) an alkylaryl group.

14. A phase change ink composition according to claim 13 wherein each amide group of the triamide is bonded to a different atom in the R_2 group.

15. A phase change ink composition according to claim 13 wherein the total number of carbon atoms in $R_2 + R_g + R_h + R_j + R_k + R_p + R_q$ is at least about 7.

16. A phase change ink composition according to claim 13 wherein the total number of carbon atoms in $R_2 + R_g + R_h + R_j + R_k + R_p + R_q$ is at least about 10.

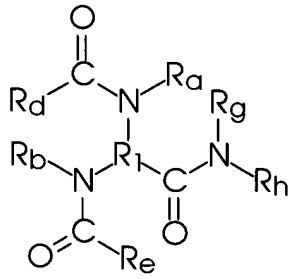
17. A phase change ink composition according to claim 13 wherein the total number of carbon atoms in $R_2 + R_g + R_h + R_j + R_k + R_p + R_q$ is at least about 12.

18. A phase change ink composition according to claim 13 wherein the total number of carbon atoms in $R_2 + R_g + R_h + R_j + R_k + R_p + R_q$ is no more than about 500.

19. A phase change ink composition according to claim 13 wherein the total number of carbon atoms in $R_2 + R_g + R_h + R_j + R_k + R_p + R_q$ is no more than about 350.

20. A phase change ink composition according to claim 13 wherein the total number of carbon atoms in $R_2 + R_g + R_h + R_j + R_k + R_p + R_q$ is no more than about 300.

21. A phase change ink composition according to claim 1 wherein the triamide is of the formula



wherein R_1 is (i) an alkylene group, (ii) an arylene group, (iii) an arylalkylene group, or (iv) an alkylarylene group, R_d and R_e each, independently of the others, is (i) an alkyl group, (ii) an aryl group, (iii) an arylalkyl group, or (iv) an alkylaryl group, and R_a, R_b, R_g, and R_h each, independently of the others, is (i) a hydrogen atom, (ii) an alkyl group, (iii) an aryl group, (iv) an arylalkyl group, or (v) an alkylaryl group.

22. A phase change ink composition according to claim 21 wherein each amide group of the triamide is bonded to a different atom in the R_1 group.

23. A phase change ink composition according to claim 21 wherein the total number of carbon atoms in $R_1 + R_a + R_b + R_d + R_e + R_g + R_h$ is at least about 7.

24. A phase change ink composition according to claim 21 wherein the total number of carbon atoms in $R_1 + R_a + R_b + R_d + R_e + R_g + R_h$ is at least about 10.

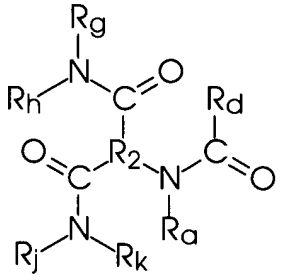
25. A phase change ink composition according to claim 21 wherein the total number of carbon atoms in $R_1 + R_a + R_b + R_d + R_e + R_g + R_h$ is at least about 12.

26. A phase change ink composition according to claim 21 wherein the total number of carbon atoms in $R_1 + R_a + R_b + R_d + R_e + R_g + R_h$ is no more than about 500.

27. A phase change ink composition according to claim 21 wherein the total number of carbon atoms in $R_1 + R_a + R_b + R_d + R_e + R_g + R_h$ is no more than about 350.

28. A phase change ink composition according to claim 21 wherein the total number of carbon atoms in $R_1 + R_a + R_b + R_d + R_e + R_g + R_h$ is no more than about 300.

29. A phase change ink composition according to claim 1 wherein the triamide is of the formula



wherein R_2 is (i) an alkylene group, (ii) an arylene group, (iii) an arylalkylene group, or (iv) an alkylarylene group, R_d is (i) an alkyl group, (ii) an aryl group, (iii) an arylalkyl group, or (iv) an alkylaryl group, and R_a, R_g, R_h, R_j, and R_k each, independently of the others, is (i) a hydrogen atom, (ii) an alkyl group, (iii) an aryl group, (iv) an arylalkyl group, or (v) an alkylaryl group.

30. A phase change ink composition according to claim 29 wherein each amide group of the triamide is bonded to a different atom in the R_2 group.

31. A phase change ink composition according to claim 29 wherein the total number of carbon atoms in $R_2 + R_a + R_d + R_g + R_h + R_j + R_k$ is at least about 7.

32. A phase change ink composition according to claim 29 wherein the total number of carbon atoms in $R_2 + R_a + R_d + R_g + R_h + R_j + R_k$ is at least about 10.

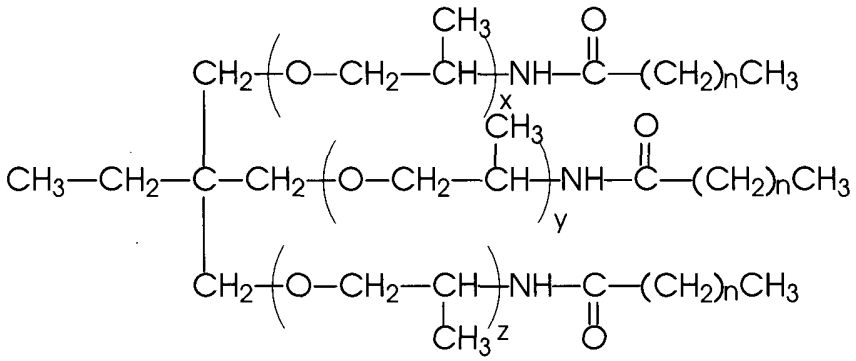
33. A phase change ink composition according to claim 29 wherein the total number of carbon atoms in $R_2 + R_a + R_d + R_g + R_h + R_j + R_k$ is at least about 12.

34. A phase change ink composition according to claim 29 wherein the total number of carbon atoms in $R_2 + R_a + R_d + R_g + R_h + R_j + R_k$ is no more than about 500.

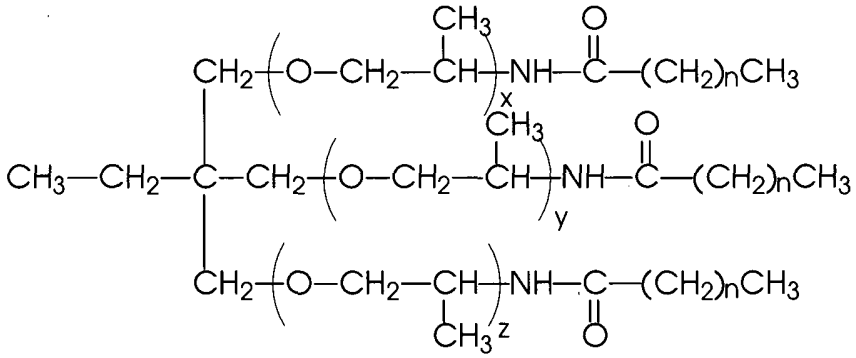
35. A phase change ink composition according to claim 29 wherein the total number of carbon atoms in $R_2 + R_a + R_d + R_g + R_h + R_j + R_k$ is no more than about 350.

36. A phase change ink composition according to claim 29 wherein the total number of carbon atoms in $R_2 + R_a + R_d + R_g + R_h + R_j + R_k$ is no more than about 300.

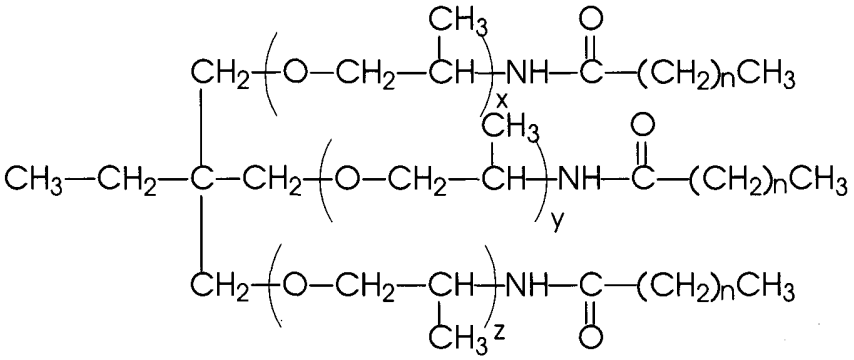
37. A phase change ink composition according to claim 1 wherein the triamide is (a) of the formula



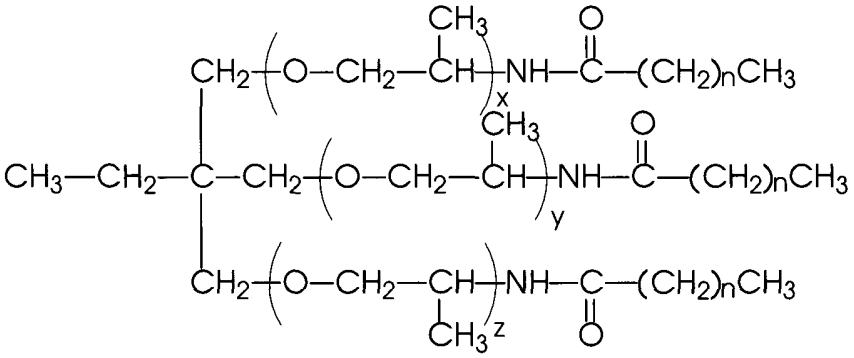
wherein x, y, and z are each integers representing the number of repeat propyleneoxy units, wherein x, y, and z may each be zero, and wherein the sum of x+y+z is from about 5 to about 6, and wherein n has an average value of about 46 and a range of from about 40 to about 52; (b) of the formula



wherein x, y, and z are each integers representing the number of repeat propyleneoxy units, wherein x, y, and z may each be zero, and wherein the sum of x+y+z is from about 5 to about 6, and wherein n has an average value of about 37 and a range of from about 34 to about 40; (c) of the formula



wherein x, y, and z are each integers representing the number of repeat propyleneoxy units, wherein x, y, and z may each be zero, and wherein the sum of x+y+z is from about 5 to about 6, and wherein n has an average value of about 23 and a range of from about 20 to about 26; (d) of the formula



wherein x, y, and z are each integers representing the number of repeat propyleneoxy units, wherein x, y, and z may each be zero, and wherein the sum of x+y+z is from about 5 to about 6, and wherein n is 16; (e) of the formula

$$N(CH_2CH_2\text{-}NH\text{-}C(=O)\text{-}(CH_2)_{46}CH_3)_3;$$

or (f) of the formula

$$N(CH_2CH_2\text{-}NH\text{-}C(=O)\text{-}(CH_2)_nCH_3)_3$$

wherein n has an average value of about 23 and a range of from about 20 to about 26.

38. A phase change ink composition comprising (a) a colorant and (b) a phase change ink carrier comprising a polyamide, wherein the polyamide component of the carrier contains at least about 10 percent by weight of a branched triamide which is the reaction product of either (i) a mixture consisting essentially of at least one monoacid, at least one branched triamine, and optional ingredients nonreactive with the monoacid, the triamine, and the reaction product thereof, or (ii) a mixture consisting essentially of at least one monoamine, at least one branched triacid, and optional ingredients nonreactive with the triacid, the monoamine, and the reaction product thereof.

39. A phase change ink composition comprising (a) a colorant and (b) a phase change ink carrier comprising a polyamide, wherein the polyamide component of the carrier contains at least about 10 percent by weight of a branched triamide which is the reaction product of either (i) a mixture comprising at least one branched triamine and at least one monoacid present in an amount of at least about 3 moles of monoacid per every one mole of branched triamine, or (b) a mixture comprising at least one branched triacid and at least one monoamine present in an amount of at least about 2.5 moles of monoamine per every one mole of branched triacid.

40. A phase change ink composition according to claim 39 wherein the branched triamide is the reaction product of a mixture comprising at least one branched triamine and at least one monoacid present in an amount of at least about 3.1 moles of monoacid per every one mole of branched triamine.

41. A phase change ink composition according to claim 39 wherein the branched triamide is the reaction product of a mixture comprising at least one branched triamine and at least one monoacid present in an amount of at least about 4 moles of monoacid per every one mole of branched triamine.

42. A phase change ink composition according to claim 39 wherein the branched triamide is the reaction product of a mixture comprising at least one branched triacid and at least one monoamine present in an amount of at least about 2.9 moles of monoamine per every one mole of branched triacid.

43. A phase change ink composition according to claim 39 wherein the branched triamide is the reaction product of a mixture comprising at least one branched triacid and at least one monoamine present in an amount of at least about 3 moles of monoamine per every one mole of branched triacid.

44. A process which comprises incorporating a phase change ink according to claim 1 into an ink jet printing apparatus, melting the ink, and causing droplets of the melted ink to be ejected in an imagewise pattern onto a recording substrate.

45. A process according to claim 44 wherein the substrate is a final recording sheet and droplets of the melted ink are ejected in an imagewise pattern directly onto the final recording sheet.

46. A process according to claim 44 wherein the substrate is an intermediate transfer member and droplets of the melted ink are ejected in an imagewise pattern onto the intermediate transfer member followed by transfer of the imagewise pattern from the intermediate transfer member to a final recording sheet.

47. A process according to claim 46 wherein the intermediate transfer member is heated to a temperature above that of the final recording sheet and below that of the melted ink in the printing apparatus.

48. A process according to claim 44 wherein the printing apparatus employs a piezoelectric ink jet process, wherein droplets of the ink are caused to be ejected in imagewise pattern by oscillations of piezoelectric vibrating elements.